

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In the Specification

- On page 1 (line 1), after "The invention relates to the actuating device for a towing device, which", "**toning**" has been changed to – **towing** –

- On page 6 (line 4)

"FIG. 4 diagrammatically depicts a plan view of part of the actuating device in the embodiment with an additional rotation hinge on the contact body"

has been changed to

-- FIG. 4a diagrammatically depicts a plan view of part of the actuating device in the embodiment with an additional rotation hinge on the contact body. FIG. 4b shows a side view of the part of the actuating device depicted in FIG. 4a --

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In the Claims

In claim 9

- On line 4, after "which is mounted rotatably on", "**the said vessel and is provided with the said connection**" has been changed to -- **said vessel and is provided with said connection --**
- On line 8, after "with", "**the said guide body to uncouple the said connection**" has been changed to -- **said guide body to uncouple said connection --**.

3. The following changes to the drawings are required:

- Figure 1 should be provided with a label "**Prior Art**" because it shows a conventional prior art tug boat.
- In figure 3, the outwardly displaced position of the contact body, indicated as position 16, should be shown with dashed (phantom) lines. This change is required because position 16 depicts an alternative position of the contact body (see page 7, line 8 of the original Specification).

In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above drawing changes.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR

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1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art does not show or teach an actuating device on a vessel, a towing installation arranged on a deck of the vessel and adapted to be rotated through 360 degrees in a horizontal plane, the towing installation comprising a ring that is rotatably mounted on the vessel and is provided with a connection for coupling to a towing cable, the actuating device comprising a flexible guide body supported by a guide member on the ring or on the deck, and a contact body secured to the ring or the deck, wherein the contact body is configured for displacement such that it can be brought into engagement with the guide body for uncoupling the connection at the towing installation.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ajay Vasudeva whose telephone number is (571) 272-6689. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 12:00 -- 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, S. Joe Morano can be reached on (571) 272-6684. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ajay Vasudeva/
Primary Examiner
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